coal by different productive sectors of the economy including thermal plants. In view of this twin problem of stockpiling and running short of coal, I would like to know whether the Government will consider taking punitive measures to ensure that the buyers who place orders with the coal companies, but do not lift the stocks, are taken to task. This is part one of my question.

The second part of my question is whether the Minister will sit down with the Ministry of Railways to ensure that wagons are put through on time and also coal supply, particularly to the strategic sector of production, is maintained.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : So far as the first part of his question is concerned, Sir, the buyers are our best customers and certainly, we go by the theory that we have to give them the best quality of coal in the right quantity. CIL being a company believes in the theory that the buyers are always correct, that the customers are always correct. Still we are trying—it is a question of business of a company—with the buyers and dialogues take place at the CIL level and at the subsidiary level so that whatever quantity they ask for, as I have already answered, is given and when they supply it, they take it. There were instances when these supplies were not taken.

So far as the question of the Railways is concerned, it is a continuous processs. They carry 67 per cent of the coal in the country. Therefore, almost every day, either on telephone or at the table, positively every week the meeting of the Co-ordination Committee of the Secretaries takes place, not only with the Railways, but also with the power houses and others. Therefore, these two suggestions which have been given are already being implemented by the coal companies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Muthu Mani.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : Sir, I have a very simple question to ask.

Sir, Tamil Nadu is prepared to take coal from Maharashtra. But it is far way and it is also highly expensive so far as transportation is concerned. So, I want to know from the honourable Minister whether the Minister will permit Tamil Nadu to take coal from Andhra Pradesh as demanded by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, this has not yet been brought to my notice and I do not remember seeing any such letter or request from the Chief Minister. If such a request is received and brought to my notice, we will certainly get it examined.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : Several times our Chief Minister has written. This is for your information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 184.

कोयला उद्योग का राष्ट्रीयकरण

*184. **श्री वीरेन जे. शाह :**

डॉ. जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कोयला उद्योग का राष्ट्रीयकरण होने के बाद से 1992-93 तक कोयले के उत्पादन में भारी वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां तो राष्ट्रीयकरण के समय कितने कोयला का उत्पादन होता था और वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान कितने कोयले का उत्पादन हुआ है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस अवधि में कोयले के मूल्यों में भी भारी वृद्धि हुई है;

(घ) यदि हां तो राष्ट्रीयकरण करते समय देश में कोयले का प्रति क्विंटल मूल्य क्या था और मार्च 1993 के दौरान कोयले की विभिन्न किस्मों का मूल्य क्या-क्या था ;

(ङ) क्या यह सच है कि इस अवधि के दौरान देश में कोयला उत्पादन की दर में वृद्धि हुई है; और

*सभा में यह प्रश्न डॉ० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन द्वारा पूछा गया।

(च) यदि हां तो भूमिगत खानों और खुली खदानों से पृथक्-पृथक् राष्ट्रीयकरण के समय प्रति पाली कोयला उत्पादन की मात्रा क्या थी और वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान यह मात्रा क्या रही ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a), (b) and (c) : The coal production in the country has increased from a level of 77.22 million tonnes in 1972-73 to 238.23 million tonnes in 1992-93 (provisional).

(c) and (d) Average pit-head price of coal in 1973 was Rs. 37.50 per tonne. With the last price revision which is effective from 17-2-1993 the average pit-head price of coal in Coal India Limited is Rs. 364.00 per tonne and Rs. 434.00 per tonne in Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

(f) Output per manshift (OMS) in Coal India Limited has increased from 0.58 tonne in 1973-74 to 1.46 tonnes in 1992-93 (provisional). During this period OMS in Singareni Collieries Company Limited has increased from 0.62 tonne to 1.04 tonnes.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Sir, while quantitatively there is an improvement in production, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that at least 70 per cent of our coal production is of an inferior quality wih low heat value. If the hon. Minister is going to admit this remarkable level of inefficiency, I would like to know from him what his plans are to improve the quality of coal that the Coal India produces in this country.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, it is not correct to say that the Indian coal which is produced now is of an inferior quality. But, Sir, the coal produced is mainly suitable for the power houses. But we have less quantity of coal produced for production of steel. And that is why whatever import takes place is for the making of steel. But, for power houses and other houses, as the hon. Member knows, we have sufficient quantity of coal of Grade-A and others.

Sir, so far as the quality is concerned, we have taken several steps. Up till now, washeries Coal handling plants and weighing machines and other steps being taken have not been able to cover more than 70 per cent of the despatch. The manner in which the planning has been made and the Coal handling plants are being put up, it is expected that by March next year, 90 per cent of the coal that would be despatched supplied will go through coal handling plants.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Sir, the Minister admits in the later part of his answer that 70 per cent of the coal is not yet processed. So, he admits what I said...But let me move on to my second supplementary, Sir, there are washeries being run by private units and washeries being run by Government units, I give a specific example of washeries run by the Tata Steel. Is it not true that the Tata Steel in its production has been able to bring down the ash content in the coal washed by them from 40 per cent to 15 per cent, but the CIL-run washeries have never been able to come to a level of less than 19 per cent ? Sir, part (b) of my question is related to this. I believe that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has decided to allow the coal-consuming industries to open captive coal mines, and to allow the private sector to set up coal washeries, which is already on. Since the private coal washeries will be allowed to sell coal directly to the consumers, will they be free from the control of administered coal prices ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, so far as the first portion is concerned, probably, the hon. Member could not follow what I said or I could not explain it to

him properly. It is not 70 per cent which is not being done properly. Already 70 per cent goes through various washeries, Coal handling plants, weighment, etc. The balance portion of 30 per cent is still not covered. Out of that, 20 per cent would be covered by March next year by setting up new coal-handling plants, weighing machines, etc. So far as the Tatas are concerned, they are working by putting in their money in one small area for the purpose of their own captive plant. Although I am not personally satisfied with the performance of the washeries under the CIL, constantly steps are being taken so that the best-produced coal is supplied to the customers.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Sir, the second part of my question has not been answered with regard to the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and the freedom of administered price to the privately-washed coal.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : As far as that is concerned, this House had already passed a Bill which went to the Lok Sabha and the Lok Sabha also passed it with a certain amendment which is again coming to this House for formally agreeing to that amendment. So, it is not the Cabinet Committee taking a decision on it. It was brought to this House and this House passed the Bill whereby not only captive coal mines for power sector but also the private washeries can be allowed under certain conditions. That is laid down in the Bill.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Sir, it is leading to .....

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, he has answered it. I would like to give chance to another Member, Mr. Kamal Morarka.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, the figures given by the hon. Minister show that since nationalisation, total production has increased three times but prices have increased about ten times. Is it not a fact that out of your total production over all the coalmines, about 30 per cent of your work force account for 80 per cent of the coal production, meaning thereby that certain collieries are more efficient and productivity of the bulk of the work force is low, thereby bringing down the total average ? If that is to, I would like to know whether the Minister would take steps to see that in respect of mines employing that 30 per cent of the work force, the capacity would be augmented and their efficiency and productivity increased further, while the remaining 70 per cent of the work force would be—if not phased out because it is a very large work force—redeployed, and a method will be found to redeploy them at different collieries where their productivity would be higher. The hon. Minister may note that if coal sector is being opened again to the private sector, there is a positive danger of the CIL becoming a sick unit in the very near future if steps are not taken to see that efficient coalmines are given a fillip by more investment and the inefficient ones are readjustment or restructured to make them productive.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Exactly what the hon. Member has said is being done. So far as the question of non-efficient mining is concerned, there are various factors. One is where the mine has been totally exhausted. And just because one mine is exhausted, we cannot get rid of the workers. So, what we are doing is, we are taking those workers to another mine, a new mine or a continuing mine where this work force is utilised. Those who are willing to go on voluntary retirement, we are prepared to grant them voluntary retirement. So far as good mines are concerned, especially in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, which have started giving good results, there is a different type of work culture. A very good work culture has been set up by the workers themselves and there we are giving more attention so that this work culture is maintained and the existing production capacity goes on well. In fact, this high

production and our success to achieve the target is because of the good work done by the workers, particularly in the coal-fields of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Is it a fact that per worker coal production is the lowest in our country compared to other countries like China and Australia ? It is 20 per cent less than Australia; it is one-fifth compared to china. What steps are you contemplating to increase production per worker ? Till now, no efforts have been made to increase per worker production

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : OMS is not satisfactory in my estimation but it is not correct to say that nothing is being done. If we try to compare it with Australia and the U.S., it will not be comparing two equals but comparing an unequal with an equal, because all those very costly machines which have been deployed by Australia and the U.S. or China in their underground coalmines, have not yet been deployed by us for want of funds. So far as the open-cast mines are concerned, gradually, new types of machinery are being deployed. The hon. Member was referring to OMS I have some figures here in this regard. In the case of CIL underground mines, the OMS is 0.53. In the case of open-cast mines, it is 3.31. So far as the underground mines under SCCL are concerned, the OMS is 0.65. In the case of open-cast mines, it is 4.74.

Sir, China is always cited. I find that in the case of Chinese underground mines, it is 1.3 only. But if you compare it with the OMS of our underground and open-cast mines, we are better than China. The figure in regard to OMS in respect of their open-cast mines has not been made available.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERED TO QUESTIONS

Amendment to Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act

*185. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976, so as to bring about a distinction between adult and child bonded labour, with a view to assuring suitable and distinct provision for rehabilitation and development of personality of bonded child labour;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) by when such a legislation is proposed to be brought before Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

इराक पर बकाया राशि

@*186. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :**
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय निर्यातकों की भारी धनराशि गत वर्षों से इराक पर बकाया पड़ी है;

(ख) यदि हां तो मार्च 1993 के दौरान यह बकाया राशि कितनी थी ?

(ग) क्या इराक विगत में बकाया धनराशि का भुगतान समझौते के अनुसार कच्चे तेल के रूप में किया करता था;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि इराक पर लगे प्रतिबंधों के कारण इस बकाया राशि का भुगतान नहीं हो पा रहा है;

(ङ) यदि हां तो क्या सरकार ने इस मामले पर संबंधित देशों के साथ विचार-विमर्श किया है;

@ पूर्वतः तारांक प्रश्न संख्या 146, 5 मई, 1993 से स्थानांतरित ।